

Newsletter, March 2019



The lowdown on fossicking for fungi

AUTUMN is fast approaching, perhaps it's already here, bringing with it some of the most exciting opportunities for outdoor photography. We are so lucky to have a semi-temperate climate in the Upper Blue Mountains and with the shorter days, softer light and an incredible array of colours in autumn, it's many photographers' favourite time of the year. To get the ball rolling, the club has organised a morning workshop on Sunday, 7 April at Coachwood Glen near Blackheath (details, page 5). The recent soft rain and mist could make this spot the perfect setting for macro photography, of falling leaves and fungi. Sydney-based photographer David Noble has taken magnificent shots in



Coachwood Glen on trips with the Sydney Fungal Studies Group (photo, left). His [blog](#) is worth a look for inspiration. In addition, the British photography website [Camera Jabber](#) has some excellent tips for shooting in autumn, among them: work harder, i.e. go the distance to get the perfect spot; include water in your compositions; get down low (think fungi); emphasise the sky; use a telephoto lens and maximise your depth of field. The annual [Ironfest](#) (27-28 March) at the Lithgow Showground is an incredible chance for club members who are keen on people and action photography. If you struggle with photographing in public, here is your gold-plated opportunity. **LM**

Members' choice DPI – “Grass Head”

THIS photograph came about quite by accident because I didn't even have a camera with me when I noticed thousands of very small grass heads along a path near my house, that I regularly walk along.

It was early in the morning, with the sun just above the horizon, backlighting all the grass tips, giving the visual effect of a field of shimmering silver. A photo appeared to present itself but I didn't have a camera to capture the scene.

I couldn't help but pick one grass head to examine it and try to understand why it shone so brightly. I noticed it was very fine and immediately thought that backlighting it would make a good macro shot.

I took the grass head home and set it up with a strong light at the back and a weaker light at the front, to stop it turning into a silhouette.

Needless to say, I was happy how such a common little “flower” made such a striking picture when it was given the chance to be viewed under more favourable conditions.

The image was shot with an Olympus OM-D MKII with a 60mm macro lens at f14, ISO 200.

Emanuel Conomos



Members' choice mono – “God’s Fingers”

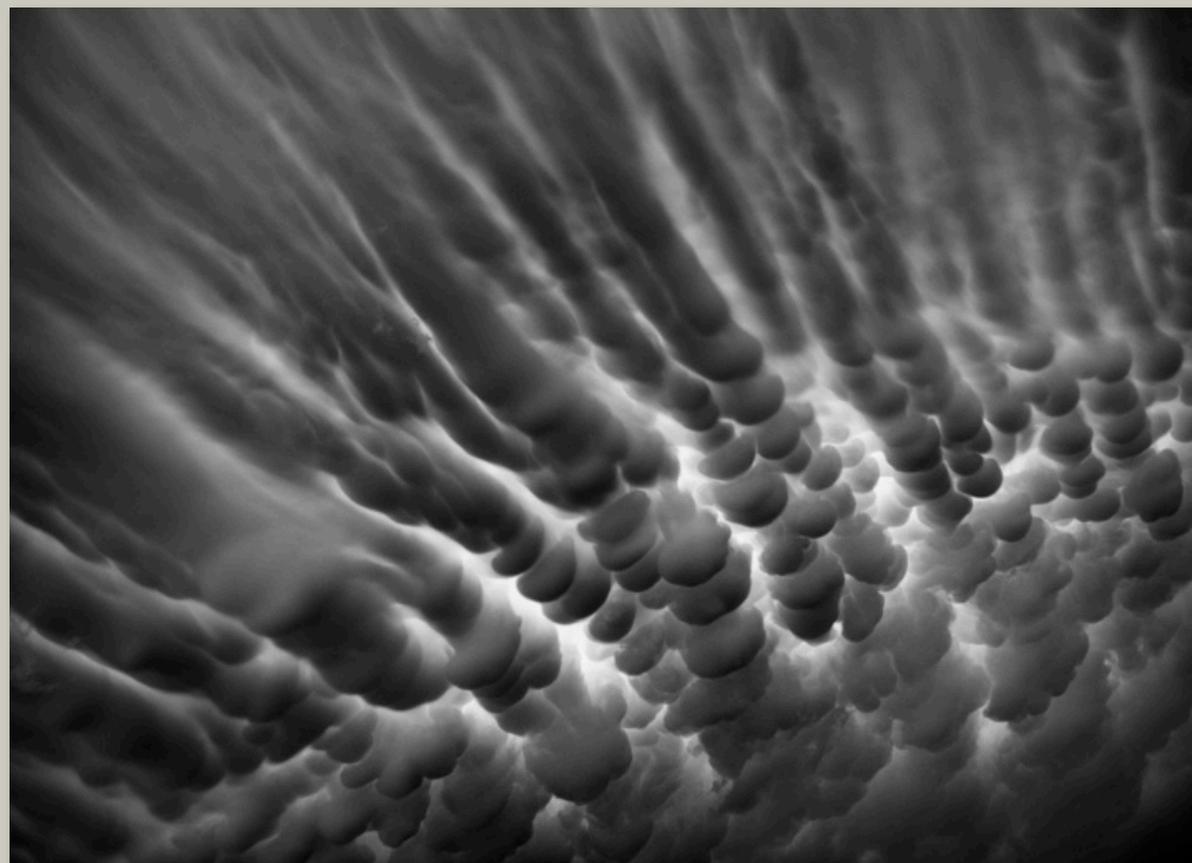
I WISH I could say that a great deal of research went into both the conception and capture of *God’s Fingers* but I’d be lying. This image was simply a case of being in the right place at the right time.

It was taken before Christmas and thunderstorms had been rolling in from the west for days. After hearing thunder on this particular Thursday I went out to the backyard, looked up and saw this amazing cloud formation.

I considered jumping in the car and heading for higher ground in the hope of getting some shots as the storm rolled across Hartley Vale but it was moving far too quickly. So, armed with my trusty Pentax K-1, with a 28mm-105mm f3.5-5.6 weather resistant zoom lens, I fired off about 50 shots from where I stood – with this image being one of the better ones. Initial post-processing was done in Lightroom, where I tweaked the clarity and contrast a little. I then worked on it in Photoshop to boost the colours in the clouds, then returned to Lightroom for the black and white conversion.

The print itself is on Epson A3 Semigloss Photo Paper and was printed on an Epson Stylus Photo R3000.

I learned later that what I had photographed was a rare cloud phenomenon called Mammatus. The clouds are rounded, pouch-



like protrusions that hang from the undersides of other clouds. Their name derives from the Latin *mamma*, which means udder or breast. Mammatus formations can extend over many hundreds of miles of cloud. This was perhaps cold comfort for people living in and around Mt Victoria, who copped the full fury of this incredible storm.

Rob Skinner

Members' choice colour – “Watercolours”



THIS was a shot that worked out in spite of my complete lack of preparedness on the day.

It is still pretty dark at the bottom of Wentworth Falls at 6.30am, even in February, so long exposures are a given. When the composition appeared in front of me and I wanted that shot,

I kicked myself for leaving my tripod at home. What was I to do?

By sitting down and balancing the camera on my knees, I could hold it somewhat steady. All I needed was one wobble-free second for the shot to seem possible.

I held my breath and fired off six shots in the hope that one might work out. A kneepod is obviously not as good a piece of equipment as a tripod because five out of six shots were binned. But one turned out!

This image was shot with a Pentax K1 using an old manual Zeiss 28mm prime lens, at F11, 0.8sec at ISO100.

I did a bit of processing in Lightroom but the image didn't really “click” until it went into Colour Efex Pro 4 in the Nik package. One of the presets just made it jump off the screen. The image was printed on Canson Infinity Baryta paper.

Alan Daniel

Diary

Canon NSW Regional Photography Festival

There'll be 45 events from **Saturday 30 March** through to **Sunday 7 April** in Mudgee, Orange, Dubbo and Bathurst.

Events, some of which are free, include *Beginner Food Photography* at Moothi Estate, Mudgee; *Beginner Sunrise Photography*, Mudgee; *Intermediate Creative Studio Portrait Photography*, Dubbo; *Beginner Introduction to Photography Workshop*, Dubbo; *Intermediate Foundations & Essentials of Photography*, Dubbo. Click [here](#) for more details.

2019 Wildlife Photographer of the Year

100 finalist images chosen from over 50,000 entries to this international competition are on display at the **Australian National Maritime Museum until 25 August**, 9.30am–5pm daily. Click [here](#) for information.

Sony World Photography Awards 2019



On **17 April** the Open Photographer of the Year award will be announced. You can view all the other winners [here](#).

Left: *Harmony* by Christy Lee Rogers, US, Winner, Open competition, Motion.

Look and learn about filters



“Surely we all remember the disappointment of our first sunset photo - our eyes saw a magic moment but the pictures we got showed a white ball with black all around it” writes Francesco Gola.

For everything you were afraid to ask about filters for landscape photography, and for advice on capturing that magic moment *exactly* as you saw it, check out his excellent [500px Blog](#).

Club event — a date for your diary

There will be a half-day club outing on **Sunday 7 April**.

Here is a great opportunity to share a practical outdoor workshop with other club members at **Coachwood Glen**, just south of Blackheath. If the weather obliges with a little rain we will go fungi hunting. The Glen is a must visit for photographers, with fungi (in season), a running brook, waterfalls and moss-covered boulders.

Bring your camera, tripod (a very small one for fungi), macro lens, torch (phone light will do), and a cable release. Throw in some warm clothing, a thermos for a cuppa, and a bundle of enthusiasm for a great experience. Meet at **Stockyard Car Park**, Wentworth Falls for car pooling at **8.30am**.

EC

Classifieds

CANON ZOOM LENS

Canon EF-S 10-18mm f4.5-5.6 IS STM Zoom Lens. Used once and in original packaging. \$220.

Phone Pauline Pollock 0410 439 939.

PENTAX K-MOUNT LENSES

On offer: 50mm f1.4 FA series; 50mm f1.7 A series; 135mm f2.5 Takuma; 35mm-70mm F series zoom and a Sigma 18mm - 125mm zoom. Please see Alan on any club night.

BATTERY GRIP FOR PENTAX K7/K5

This Sidande battery grip appears to be unused. It came unwanted with an eBay purchase. In the original box and packaging. \$20. Phone Michael Peck 0449 527 469.

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Notices

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Upper Blue Mountains Camera Club Inc. will be held at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Falls Road, Wentworth Falls on **Wednesday the 20th March, 2019 at 7.30pm.**

The meeting will consider the following items of business:

- (a) confirmation of the minutes of the last preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (b) receive from the committee reports on the activities of the Club during the last preceding year.
- (c) the election of office bearers of the Club and ordinary members of the committee.
- (d) a financial statement in accordance with s.26(6) of the associations Incorporation Act, 1999, setting out:
 - income and expenditure of the Club in the last financial year,
 - assets and liabilities of the Club at the end of the year,
 - mortgages, charges or other securities affecting any Club property.

Items to be placed on the Agenda for General Business should be submitted in writing to the Secretary before **Friday, the 15th March, 2019.**